

VSH Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2009, 1:30 pm

VSH Library

Type of meeting: Oversight

Facilitator: Michael Hartman, Commissioner of Mental Health

Note taker: Cheryl Goodwin-Abare

Steering Committee Members: Ann Moore; Kate Purcell; Beth Tanzman (Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health); Dr. Jay Batra, VSH Associate Medical Director; William McMains; Patrick Flood, (Designee for Secretary Robert Hofmann); Paul Dupre; Tommie Murray, Quality Assurance Chief

Attendees: Jessica Oski, DMH Legal Department; Anne Donahue; Michael Sabourin (part of the meeting)

Discussed: Approval of Meeting Minutes

The June meeting minutes were reviewed by the Steering Committee. Ann noted that the Medical Staff By-Law amendments section was in the wrong place in the minutes and Jessica pointed out to everyone where it should be and this will be corrected. Beth Tanzman made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ann Moore seconded the motion. All in favor.

Discussion: Executive Director's Report with Terry Rowe

Michael Hartman stated that Terry is away this week.

(End of Executive Director's Report)

Michael Hartman stated that the Oversight Committee has been having discussions about the census at VSH and other psychiatric hospitals. This past month VSH had a very high census. Discussion followed.

Tommie Murray, Quality Assurance Report–

Tommie stated that there has been no update from the last DOJ visit. According to the CMS Plan of Correction rules their Plan of Correction should be due by 45 days – which would be next week.

Tommie stated that on Monday and Tuesday of this week, two surveyors from Licensing and Protection were on-site to review complaints. The surveyors reviewed 14-19 patient records to identify if the complaints were able to be substantiated. Licensing and Protection had no findings to report. Over the two days, a number of staff were asked to participate in the process by answering questions, obtaining records, locating information. The result of the survey found that VSH was in compliance with all regulations, and none of the complaints were substantiated.

DOJ's next visit will be September 28, 2009 and then February 2010 and then in July 2010 – their agreement ends. We have made significant and sufficient compliance. Ann wanted to know what was the partial compliance – 1) treatment mall; 2) involvement with staff on living areas; 3) treatment plans.

Discussed: Medical Director's Report with Jay Batra

The census at VSH has been very high along with other psychiatric hospitals this past month. We are currently seeing a reduction in census at VSH which is 42 patients today. We do get a lot of admissions at VSH due to other community hospitals stating that patients are too acute for their hospital.

Dr. Pelletier should be starting half-time in about a month on a temporary basis until a full-time physician is hired. MD coverage remains tight due to vacations and one MD going to be out for CME exams.

Jay stated that comfort rooms are needed at VSH for patients.

(End of Medical Director's Report)

Other Business –

Second Spring – there are currently 12-14 patients at Second Spring.

Meadowview should be open late summer/early fall.

Policies with Jessica Oski –

None at this time.

Discussion on utilization review process for patients here longer than 14 days.

Public Comment – Points of interest presented by public attendees:

- Status on the DOJ report – We have not received the written report from the last visit.
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Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting of the VSH Steering Committee will be August 19, 2009 at 1:30 pm in the VSH Nursing Classroom.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Goodwin-Abare
Minute Taker